Weak and irregular foreign TV signals are also received in certain other areas. Wherever Doordarshan transmitters exist, the foreign signals are generally weaker than the local signals.

(b) Priority has been assigned to the expansion of TV service in the border areas of the country, and a number of schemes, to this effect, have been included in the Seventh Plan. TV service is expected to be available to about 86 per cent population of the border districts of the country on completion of the Seventh Plan schemes against the national average of 82.8 per cent.

Irregularities in distribution of imported sugar by NCCF, Lucknow

1209. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 249 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th March, 1987 and state :

(a) what is the outcome of the investigations made by the CID, Delhi and the Uttar Pradesh Police;

(b) what departmental action has been taken by Government against the NCCF officials charge-sheeted; and

(c) whether similar departmental inquiry has been instituted in the case of Lucknow Staff of NCCF, if so, what is the outcome thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The investigations by Delhi|U.P. Police in the matter have not yet been completed.

(b) Of the 15 employees of Delhi Branch who were charge-sheeted, cases in respect of 14 have been finalised and concerned officials have been penalised. Loss sustained by the NCCF has also been fully recovered from the employees. Action against the remaining one employee is now under consideration.

(c) Departmental action in this case could not be initiated because the relevant documents have been seized by the U.P. Police.

DDA Flats schemes for retired and retiring persons

1210. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *Alias* V. ARUNACHALAM) : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) when the last scheme for retired| retiring persons for registration of Delhi Development Authority flats was announced;

(b) what is the number of schemes announced, the persons registered in each category and the number of persons who have been allotted flats, so far; and

(c) by when Government propose to announce the next scheme for registration of retired|retiring employees and which year is likely to be covered thereunder ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Doordarshan Stations with colour production facilities

1211. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what are the Doordarshan Stations which are likely to be equipped with colour production facilities;

(b) what steps have been taken to create these facilities in these stations; and

(c) what will be the time frame within which these facilities will be created in these stations ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) All Doordarshan Studio Centres in-

cluded in the Seventh Plan are to be equipped for production of programmes in colour. Black and white equipment at the existing Kendras is also envisaged to be replaced by colour equipment as a part of the Seventh Plan.

(b) Orders have been placed for bulk of the equipment and civil works taken up at a large number of Kendras.

(c) Projects at different places are at different stages of implementation. Some of these will be completed during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan while some others will spill over to the Eighth Plan.

Increase in the prices of essential commodities being marketed through PDS

1212. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the price per Kg. of rice, sugar and wheat sold through public distribution system during 1986, 1987 and 1988; and

(b) on how many occasions in the said period prices of the above mentioned essential commodities were increased together with the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BHATIA): (a) The retail prices of wheat and rice are fixed by the State Governments themselves and vary from State to State. However, the Central issue prices of wheat and rice issued to the State Governments and the retail price of sugar sold through the public distribution system are uniform throughout the country. A statement showing the Central issue prices of wheat and rice and the retail prices of sugar is attached. (*See* below).

(b) The Central price of wheat and the retail price of sugar were increased on two occasions during 1986 to 1988, while the issue price of rice was increased thrice. The prices of wheat and rice were increased consequent upon increase in the support prices of wheat and paddy, in order to contain the subsidy bill. The main reasons for the increase in the levy sugar price during this period were:

(i) successive increases in the statutory minimum price of sugarcane; and

(ii) increase in the conversion cost of sugar.

Statement

Central issue prices of Wheat and Rice and the retail prices of Sugar

(Rs. per Kg.)

	1-1-86 to 31-1-86	1-2-86 to 30-9-86	1-10-86 to 30-9-87	1-10-87
RICE *Common*	2.17	2.31	2.39	2.39
Fine	2.29	2.43	2.51	2.64
Superfine	2.44	2.58	2.66	2.79
WHEAT	1-1-86 to 30-4-87	1-5-87 to 24-3-88	25-3-88	
	1.90	1.95	2.04	
SUGAR	1-1-86 to 14-12-86	15-12-86 to 11-12-87	1-1-88	
	4.80	4.85	5.10	